

The Range Rider



UTAH DISTRICT ADVISERS INSPECT THE RANGE

In connection with advisory board meetings to consider applications for winter grazing privileges in Utah, two- and three-day tours of the range within the districts were planned to acquaint the board members with the conditions "on the ground" in the entire district and with improvements being constructed by CCC camps in the area.

It was unanimously agreed by the board members that they gained knowledge of the area which they could not have obtained in any other way. Many who have used the range for years announced that they gained a great deal of benefit from the tours and felt themselves better qualified to act in their advisory capacity.

In the Promontory District the board members were surprised to find a flock of wild ducks on a large body of water which had been developed by the Grazing Service in the middle of the Utah Desert. Where only mud bogs had appeared before they found pools of clear, fresh water — and only a livestock operator in an arid region can know the true significance of that!

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SAFETY HONOR ROLL ON JULY 31:

G-97, KIMAH, RUPERT, IDAHO	19	ACCIDENT-FREE MONTHS
G-72, Bridger, Bridger, Montana	18	accident-free months
G-19, Delmoe, Pioche, Nevada	16	accident-free months
G-68, Frederick Butte, Brothers, Oreg. .	16	accident-free months
G-35, Milford, Milford, Utah	11	accident-free months
G-65, Massadona, Skull Creek, Colo.	11	accident-free months
G-128, Mason Valley, Yerington, Nev.	10	accident-free months
G-137, Solomonville, Safford, Ariz.	10	accident-free months

A REPORT FROM COLORADO AND WYOMING RANGE COUNTRY

The Assistant Director returned the morning of September 10, after a six-week field inspection trip covering the Colorado and Wyoming regions. In addition to spending some time in each district in the two States, an inspection was made of the area recently designated as Royal Gorge Grazing District (No. 5, Colorado) and the area proposed as an addition to the Ouray Grazing District (No. 3, Colorado). Both of these areas have been hit by severe droughts--according to the "old timers", the driest season they can recall. Under such circumstances, range administration is most desirable. All stockmen contacted in the areas looked with favor upon the new districts and were anxious to get district administration under way.

The principal purpose of Mr. Terrett's trip was to contact district graziers and get first-hand information relating to the various range problems confronting them. A minimum of three days was spent with each man in charge of a district and an effort made to see as much of the range and the range improvements as possible and, at the same time, get the district man's ideas about what is necessary for the betterment of his district and how he plans to accomplish it.

While some districts are ahead of others, substantial progress is being made everywhere. Without exception, each man in charge of a district was found to be deeply interested in his work and giving little thought to the amount of time spent on the job--the idea being to get the job done even if it takes 16 hours per day, seven days per week, to do it.

Early moisture in both Colorado and Wyoming gave the forage a good start but unusually hot, dry weather during the summer months has resulted in a short growth.

Mr. Terrett reports that, taking into consideration all of the factors, both range and livestock are in from fair to good condition.

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IT WAS AN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PARTY

Department of the Interior employees in Salt Lake City got together for a luncheon on August 31, just to get better acquainted. Director Rutledge and Mr. S. M. Dodd of the Bureau of the Budget were honor guests.

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FRONTIER HARSHIPS

"The passing of the frontier represents a definite corner in the history of American progress and welfare. The expansion that followed for fifty years after the Civil War can perhaps never be duplicated....

"But it all depends upon what is meant by a frontier. It is possible that the restless or dissatisfied American today has a far different conception of such a spot than ever existed. He may be thinking in terms of a nice 50-acre farm, located along a fine concrete highway, only a few miles from town. He can picture a neat seven-room house with all conveniences, including a radio. The barn is fully equipped with modern machinery and the cows milked by a milking machine. The fruit trees, of course, are already at the bearing age....

"Granted that if such a promised land could be opened up somewhere in the Northwest, a considerable number of individuals might take a chance on bestirring themselves.... But the man that packed his family and all earthly belongings into a prairie schooner, back in the earlier days, was not hitch-hiking to a land of milk and honey. When he finally arrived at his stake-out, he usually found himself anywhere from forty to a hundred miles from the nearest railroad, and nothing to work with except his bare hands and a few home-made tools. In the matter of conveniences, he had little over the aboriginal Indians that were his none-too-friendly neighbors.

"Every parade that left St. Joseph for the hinterland met many a wagon on its way back East. Even living with the wife's folks was better than enduring the wilderness for another day. And if the hardships were too severe for that hardy race, what would happen to the modern generation under similar circumstances?...." From The Copperweld Magazine.

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RANGE REVEGETATION

One of the first projects set up for the Randolph, Utah side camp (G-103) is the "railing" of sagebrush. Seed will be broadcast over selected areas after the rail has been over it once. The seeded areas will then be railed again in reverse direction.

Fourteen rails are being used in railing operations--with two 90-pound-per-foot rails, 30 feet long, placed end to end to form the lead rail. To this lead rail are bolted two 45-pound-per-foot rails, followed by two sets of lighter rails.

The complete unit rails a swath 60 feet wide and is capable of covering about 200 acres per day, working two shifts.

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A LITTLE LAND HISTORY

"Bud" Molohon addressed the Utah Association of the Deaf at Salt Lake City recently on the subject of "Conservation of Lands of the United States."

Beginning with the original land laws, Bud took his audience down through the years, describing as he went the many laws which were tried and found impracticable, to 1934--June 28, 1934, to be exact--when the Taylor Grazing Act was passed.

The degree of success or failure of the old land laws was governed to a large extent by climate and soil. From the law of 1796 when a 640-acre land unit could be bought for \$2 per acre, to 1832 when this land unit had been reduced to 40 acres and the price to \$1.25 per acre. Federal lands were sold into private ownership. By 1862 a different land policy was inaugurated--that of providing homes for settlers and finding compensation not from the sale of land but from increased national prosperity. None other than Abraham Lincoln was responsible for the Free Homestead Act of 1862, which provided for the settlement of 160 acres of land. The homestead land-unit was increased several times as settlers moved westward into the plains region where rainfall was only 20 to 30 inches per year and where more land was needed to make a living. The 320-acre homestead act was passed in 1909, but as the people moved further and further west, into the intermountain and desert regions, still more land was necessary. The stock-raising or grazing homestead law permitting the control of 640 acres of land was passed in 1916. It was about this time that we began to realize that we had given away some of our best land or sold it for a certain fee without regard to its value. A century and a half of improper use of land, water, and soil united to play havoc with a valuable resource.

Various acts were proposed to turn over the balance of the public domain to the respective States, or to institute some sort of general management plan. The efforts of the stockmen to perpetuate their ranges and the desire of the general public to protect our resources resulted in the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934. From that time on, lands now adaptable to agriculture or raising forage crops were closed to homesteading.

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CONGRATULATIONS, RALPH

Enrollee Ralph Heflin, G-130, Oregon, has constructed a table exhibit for the Harney County Fair showing the type of range improvement work undertaken by the Grazing Service. The exhibit, mounted on a base approximately 4 by 5 feet, depicts a spring and trough, windmill, "Oregon type" reservoir, fence, board gate, and cattle guard in miniature. From the pictures sent to the Washington office we can see that the model is beautifully constructed.

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